

Immunization Resources You Need to Know About

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You Need Immunization Resources at Your Fingertips

A 10-month-old immigrant is brought into your clinic with the following immunization history: OPV at birth, 1, 2, and 4 months of age; DTP at 2 and 4 months of age; and 1 measles vaccine at 9 months of age.

You ask yourself: What vaccines does this child need? How many more doses of polio vaccine does this child need? How many doses of Hib vaccine does this child need? How many doses of MMR will this child need? Does the single antigen measles vaccine count as a dose? What about hepatitis B? varicella? DTaP? What's the soonest I should tell the parent to bring her back?

If you don't have the answers to these questions securely planted in your head, what immunization resources do you turn to? The first resource many of us think about is:

The 2000 Red Book - The Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases, AAP

The American Academy of Pediatrics' *2000 Red Book* is, without a doubt, the pediatrician's definitive immunization reference guide. Written, edited, and reviewed by some of the leading immunization experts in the United States, it answers nearly all of your immunization questions as well as almost every practical question you could ask about pediatric infectious diseases.

You can definitely use the *Red Book* to answer the assessment questions above. On page 34 is information about precautions and contraindications; on page 24 is Table 1.5, on minimal intervals between doses; on page 22 is the routine childhood immunization schedule; on page 269 is Table 3.12, recommendations for Hib immunization for children who are delayed; and finally, on page 27, information on immunizations received outside the United States.

The *2000 Red Book* is available from the American Academy of Pediatrics. Call (888) 227-1770 to order a copy or visit AAP's online order site at: www.aap.org/acb2/index.cfm?DID=15 No clinic seeing children should be without this resource.

But, with all due respect, the *2000 Red Book* (855 pages of excellent information!) weighs 2 pounds, 3 ounces, so you probably don't carry it around in your pocket, and you probably don't have a lot of time to retrieve your copy, look at several nonconsecutive pages of complex information in order to make your assessment, all while this 10-month old is being restrained by her mother and has seen enough of your exam room.

So what additional resource might help you? You need a handy tool available in every exam room, in a slot or on the wall, that can help you quickly assess this child's immunization needs.

You need the “Summary of Rules for Childhood Immunization.”

“Summary of Rules for Childhood Immunization”

This 0.6 ounce document will help you quickly assess almost every child’s immunization needs. Published by the Immunization Action Coalition (IAC), this two-sided reference table is designed so that the complicated recommendations for immunization, such as at what ages to give vaccines, what to do if children have fallen behind, precautions and contraindications, are in one convenient place so you can make quick and accurate immunization assessments.

The “Summary of Rules for Childhood Immunization” is a document that resides in exam rooms of many health professionals all over the United States. It is reviewed for technical accuracy by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and a host of nationally renowned immunization experts. You can order this resource from IAC by calling (651) 647-9009 or faxing a request to (651) 647-9131. You can also download a free copy in either text or PDF format from IAC's website at: www.immunize.org/childrules

There are other excellent resources besides the *Red Book* and the “Summary of Rules for Childhood Immunization” that health professionals need in order to have the tools necessary to improve childhood immunization rates.

The Big Five

In my opinion, the best immunization resources come from “The Big Five” – The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Immunization Action Coalition, the American Academy of Pediatrics, state health departments, and the vaccine companies.

I. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

ACIP statements. ACIP statements are published in the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)*. If you want new ACIP recommendations as soon as they are released, download them from CDC’s website: www.cdc.gov/nip/publications/ACIP-list.htm or order them online from CDC's Online Ordering Form which can be accessed at: www.cdc.gov/nip/publications You may also obtain ACIP statements by calling CDC’s Immunization Information Hot Line at (800) 232-2522.

CDC Immunization Information Hotline (CDC). Call this number to get ACIP statements, Vaccine Information Statements (VISs), vaccine safety fact sheets, or to speak with an information specialist who answers questions about shot schedules for children, teens, adults, new vaccines, and contraindications. This hotline also answers consumer questions in English and Spanish. Hours: 8 am to 11 pm EST Mon-Fri (voice mail available at all other times). Call (800) 232-2522; for Spanish language, call (800) 232-0233.

Vaccine Information Statements. Make sure you give these easy-to-read sheets to your patients prior to vaccination. This is a federal mandate for most vaccines. To order VISs, call your state health department or CDC’s Immunization Hotline at (800) 232-2522. For foreign languages VISs, visit IAC's website at www.immunize.org/vis to download VISs in up to 26 languages.

National Immunization Program's Website: www.cdc.gov/nip If you're looking for immunization resources from CDC, this is a great place to go! There is a wealth of immunization material here. Plan to spend a lot of time looking over this site.

CDC's Division of Viral Hepatitis Website: www.cdc.gov/hepatitis If you're looking for hepatitis A, B, and C resources, this is the official source! Again, this site is packed with materials that you'll be able to use.

MMWR: CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Review provides recommendations and information on vaccine-preventable diseases and many more public health topics through a free listserv. Visit the *MMWR* website at: www.cdc.gov/mmwr or sign up for free electronic delivery at: www.cdc.gov/subscribe.html

CDC Satellite Broadcasts: Get up-to-date on new vaccines, vaccine combinations, and the latest recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) by tuning in to CDC's periodic satellite broadcasts. For more information about these courses, check the website: www.phppo.cdc.gov/phtn/default.asp

The Pink Book - Epidemiology & Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases is a great immunization resource book, edited by Dr. William Atkinson, et al., CDC's National Immunization Program. The *Pink Book* condenses a large amount of disease and vaccine information into an easily readable form. You can download the *Pink Book* from CDC's website: www.cdc.gov/nip/publications/pink If you want a bound copy of the *Pink Book*, the cost is \$25. To order the book, call (800) 418-7246 or order online at: <http://bookstore.phf.org/prod171.htm>

Vaccines For Children Program (VFC) - Private providers may enroll in the VFC program and receive vaccines for eligible children (0 through 18 years of age) at no charge. Contact your state health department for further information or to enroll. To find out more, you may also visit VFC's home page at www.cdc.gov/nip/vfc

II. Immunization Action Coalition

NEEDLE TIPS is a 28-page semiannual publication of the Immunization Action Coalition. It is mailed to approximately 230,000 health professionals every spring and fall, including all primary care pediatricians, all family physicians, general practitioners, all members of the National Association of School Nurses, all members of the American Association of Occupational Health Nurses, and to anyone else who requests it who is concerned about hepatitis B and all other vaccine-preventable diseases. *NEEDLE TIPS* is widely known for its "Ask the Experts" column, written by CDC immunization experts; its feature "Vaccine Highlights," which summarizes the latest immunization recommendations and news; "What's your state doing?" which highlights each states' immunization rates for various vaccines; and new camera-ready, copyright-free, CDC-reviewed patient and staff education materials. *NEEDLE TIPS* is sent at no charge, but with a \$60 membership contribution, you will be sent a "2-inch-thick" package of all of the Coalition's camera-ready, CDC-reviewed print materials on immunization, including translations if you need them. To subscribe to *NEEDLE TIPS*, send an e-mail request to admin@immunize.org, fax your request to (651) 647-9131, or visit our website at www.immunize.org/nt to read the current or past issues. Questions? Call (651) 647-9009.

IAC EXPRESS. Sign up for *IAC EXPRESS* and receive periodic e-mail announcements via the Internet about the release of new ACIP statements, the licensure of new vaccines, the availability of new immunization and hepatitis B resources, the release of important public policy statements on immunization, and personal testimonials from people whose children, or who, themselves, had vaccine-preventable diseases. Currently there are over 14,500 subscribers and the number grows every day. There is no charge for this service. To subscribe, send an e-mail message to express@immunize.org and place the word SUBSCRIBE in the "Subject:" field. Do not put a message in the message field. Your name will be added to the subscriber list. To view past issues of *IAC EXPRESS*, visit www.immunize.org/express

IAC's Website: www.immunize.org Download any of IAC's print materials with the click of a finger. Everything is camera-ready, copyright-free, reviewed by CDC for technical accuracy, and it's all free! The site also contains links to many other organizations and resources, as well as pages of information and references on special topics of interest like vaccine safety. IAC's website averages over 150,000 visitors per month whose average visit length is over 9 minutes.

IAC's Catalog (health education materials): The Coalition has over 100 items available, some in 18 languages, that you can order. Also available are videos to educate staff, videos for patients, adolescent videos, posters, a resource manual on how to reach immigrant/refugee children with hepatitis B vaccination programs, the *Photo Notebook of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases*, and the California Immunization Branch's video *Immunization Techniques: Safe, Effective, Caring*. All of our materials are camera-ready, copy-right free, and reviewed by national experts. You can order one of any item and make as many copies as you need (including our videos). This catalog is available on the web at www.immunize.org/catalog and is also found at the end of *NEEDLE TIPS*.

III. American Academy of Pediatrics

2000 Red Book - Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases, AAP. - An excellent reference (discussed earlier) for primary care clinicians who treat children. It provides current recommendations for the prevention and management of infectious diseases. It describes the AAP's recommendations and rationale for the various childhood immunizations. Call (888) 227-1770 to order a copy or visit AAP's online order site at: www.aap.org/acb2/index.cfm?DID=15

Pediatrics (monthly journal) - This is an official publication of the American Academy of Pediatrics. It is in this journal that the AAP's Committee on Infectious Diseases publishes its official statements on vaccine use and new vaccines. For more information, call (866) 843-2271 or send an e-mail to journals@aap.org

AAP News - This monthly newspaper contains excellent information about new immunization recommendations, etc. Subscribers to the paper version (for which there is a reasonable fee) also have access to the online version. Call (888) 227-1773 or e-mail journals@aap.org

AAP's Website and health education materials: AAP recently began a program dedicated to helping parents and providers understand immunization issues. The Childhood Immunization Support Program's website can be accessed at: www.cispimmunize.org

IV. State Health Departments

Get to know your state's immunization program manager, hepatitis coordinator, and VFC coordinator. They are there to help you. Call them when you have state-specific immunization questions. Find out what kinds of patient and provider educational materials they have, including posters, brochures, and videos. Call them to register for the excellent immunization conferences that CDC broadcasts via satellite. They also may be able to help you audit your clinic's immunization rates and/or help you develop immunization tracking systems. They can also send you official CDC immunization documents. The names and phone numbers for state immunization, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and VFC coordinators can be found at www.immunize.org/coordinators

V. Vaccine Companies

Don't forget to call the vaccine companies or their local sales representatives to see what patient and provider immunization educational materials they have that you can use to increase childhood and adolescent immunization rates. Their phone numbers and websites are listed below:

Aventis Pasteur, Inc.: (800) 822-2463
www.us.aventispasteur.com

Aviron: (650) 919-6500
www.aviron.com

Berna Products Corp.: (800) 533-5899
www.bernaproducts.com

BioPort Corp.: (517) 327-1500
www.bioport.com

Chiron Vaccines: (800) 244-7668
www.chiron.com
www.rabavert.com (information on rabies prevention and treatment)

Evans Vaccines, Ltd.: (800) 200-4278
www.powderject.com/evansvaccines_fs.htm

GlaxoSmithKline: (800) 366-8900
www.gskvaccines.com
<http://us.gsk.com> (corporate website)

Merck & Co.: (800) 672-6372

www.merckvaccines.com

www.chickenpoxinfo.com (information to the public and health care providers about varicella prevention)

www.hepbinfo.com (information for adolescents about hepatitis B and its prevention)

Nabi: (800) 458-4244

www.nabi.com

Wyeth Lederle Vaccines: (800) 358-7443

www.vaccineworld.com

www.pneumo.com (information on pneumococcal disease and its prevention in infants and young children)

www.prevnar.com (information about Prevnar vaccine)

National Resources: What's out There Beyond the Big Five?

Directory of National Immunization Resources is a 50-page IAC publication, packed with useful information on organizations, websites, hotlines and more. You can order a print copy for \$10 by calling the Coalition at (651) 647-9009, faxing a request to (651) 647-9131, or e-mailing admin@immunize.org. Or go to www.immunize.org/resources to download a free copy.

IAC EXPRESS. Don't forget to subscribe to IAC's announcement service (discussed above) to receive e-mail messages about the newest immunization resources for childhood and adolescent vaccination as they are released. To subscribe to this free service, send an e-mail to express@immunize.org and enter the word SUBSCRIBE in the "Subject:" field. Your name will be added.

Summary

I've briefly described some of the excellent resources that are available to support clinicians' efforts to vaccinate children and teens. The Immunization Action Coalition relies on all of you to tell us about the excellent resources that we haven't discovered yet. If you know about resources that you think we should publicize, please give us a call at (651) 647-9009.